discharge from the stomach of a sour fluid, is defined "the belching" [eructation of wind] "of a thin fluid." "*Pylorus*," the opening from the stomach into the duodenum, is defined "a fold of mucous membrane surrounding opening from stomach to duodenum." "*Resection*," the removal of a diseased or fractured portion of the shaft, or the diseased or shattered articulating surfaces of long bones, is defined "the operation of removing the extremities of long bones." Of the word "*sinus*," the meaning, as it is employed anatomically, is given, but not its meaning as used in surgery. "*Spina-bifida*," a congenital deficiency in one or more of the vertebræ, with the protrusion of a bag or tumour filled with a fluid, is defined "a congenital absence of a portion of the backbone." "*Stillborn*," the anæmic, syncopal, asphyxiated or apoplectic condition of an infant at birth, is defined "dead-born." The meaning of "*tampon*," a plug of any material, is restricted to "*a plug of lint.*" "*Technology*" is defined "*a treatise on children;*" technology, here, is probably a misprint for "tecnology" (from τεκνον, a child, and λογος, a discourse or treatise), a term, however, which is not in common use. The definition given of "*varioloid*," namely, "mild smallpox," is not positively incorrect; it does not, however, indicate the sense in which the term is almost universally employed, namely, a disease, more or less resembling smallpox, occurring after exposure to variolous contagion in one who had been vaccinated or had had smallpox from inoculation or naturally. The meaning of "*vibices*," purple patches under the skin of a narrow elongated form, as though produced by the stroke of a whip, is set down as "marks of a whip." "*Yawning*," an involuntary gaping of the mouth, often, but not necessarily, accompanied with a deep inspiration, is defined "*a* deep inspiration."

The following we presume must be set down as typographical errors: Alteative, for alterative; alveoli, "the socket" [sockets] "for the teeth;" Kirsch-Wasser, "a distilled fruit" [liquor] "from the cherry;" peridysimus, for peridídymis; pleurilocular, for plurilocular; zonular ciliaris, for zonula ciliaris.

The above are only a few of the defects of the "Vest-pocket Lexicon," sufficient, however, to show that the volume is an unreliable guide for the student to a knowledge of the terminology of the science and the art of medicine.

D. F. C.

ART. XXVIII.—*Report of the Board of Health of the City and Port of Philadelphia, to the Mayor, for* 1864. Philadelphia, 1865. 8vo. pp. 74.

FROM this report we learn that the general sanitary condition of the city of Philadelphia continued to be favourable up to the close of the past year.

The entire number of interments registered was 17,582. Of these, 1,707 were of stillborn infants and persons who died beyond the city limits, 278 of those who died of old age, and 799 of those who died from casualties or from causes unknown, leaving 15,119 as the number of interments of such as had died from actual ascertained disease, including 1,598 soldiers.

Of the whole number of interments, 16,237 were of whites, and 1,309 of blacks; 9,782 were of males, and 7,800 of females.

Of the males, 4,722 were adults; and of the females, 3,472. Total adults, 8,194.

Of the males, 5,060 were children; and of the females, 4,328. Total children, 9,388.

The mortality among adults in 1864 exceeded that in 1863 by 856, or 11.66 per cent.; among children the excess over 1863 was 888, or 10.50 per cent.

Of the deaths, 13,427 were in persons born in the United States, or 76.36 per cent.; and 3,221 were in persons of foreign birth, or 18.31 per cent.; while 934, or 5.32 per cent., were in persons whose place of birth was unknown.

The number of births registered during 1864 was 15,591, being an excess over 1863 of 298, or 1.94 per cent. Of the children born, 8,237 were males, an increase beyond 1863 of 195, or 2.42 per cent.; 7,354 were females, an increase beyond 1863 of 103, or 1.42 per cent.

The coloured children amounted to 242—127 males, 115 females; a less number than in 1863 by 50, or 17.12 per cent.

The *twin births* amounted to 157, being 9 more than in 1863.

Four sets of *triplets* were registered in 1864.

Of *stillbirths*, 788 (462 males, and 326 females) were registered, being an excess over 1863 of 45, or 6.05 per cent.

The number of births in each quarter of the year was:—

First quarter,	January to March inclusive,	4,197 = 26.92	per cent.
Second "	April to June inclusive,	3,568 = 22.86	"
Third "	July to September inclusive,	3,775 = 24.22	"
Fourth "	October to December inclusive,	4,051 = 26.00	"

The number of marriages registered in 1864 was 6,752, an increase over 1863 of 1,278, or 23.36 per cent.

The number and percentage of marriages in each quarter of the year was:—

First	1,953 = 28.92	per cent.
Second	1,546 = 22.89	"
Third	1,463 = 21.67	"
Fourth	1,790 = 26.52	"

Of the grooms, 3,784 = 57.63 per cent., were natives of the United States; 2,753 = 42.37 per cent., were foreigners; while of 215 the birthplace is not given.

Of the brides, 4,021 = 61.28 per cent., were born in the United States; 2,496 = 38.72 per cent., were of foreign birth; while of 235 the birthplace is not given.

The following exhibits the returns of births, marriages, and deaths in Philadelphia for the past four years:—

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1861	17,271	4,417	14,468
1862	14,741	4,662	15,097
1863	15,293	5,474	15,788
1864	15,591	6,752	17,582

At the Lazaretto Hospital there were admitted 173 patients. Of these, 170 laboured under *smallpox*, 1 under *impetigo*, 1 under *typhus fever*, and of 1 the disease was unknown—an infant five weeks old, that died a few hours after admission.

Of the 170 *smallpox* patients, 112 were males, and 58 females; 134 were whites, and 36 blacks.

The admissions into the hospital were during the first quarter of the year, 33; during the second quarter, 52; during the third quarter, 30; and during the fourth quarter, 58.

Of the 173 patients, 29 died; 28 of the deaths being due to smallpox, or a little over 6 per cent. of all the cases of that disease admitted.

In speaking of the various sources of disease originating within the city, and the means for their prevention and removal, the necessity of a more perfect and extended system of sewerage is urged upon the attention of the City Councils. In connection with the subject of sewerage, we have, in a very important report from a sub-committee of the Board of Health, a discussion of the propriety or impropriety of allowing the entire discharge, through lateral drains, into the common sewers of every species of domestic filth—including what is now collected in sinks and cesspools—the refuse of manufactories, etc., as has been proposed by the public authorities.

"If," says the report alluded to, "our present system of cesspools is, in the language of the City Surveyor, 'an abomination and a nuisance,' your committee are not without authority for the opinion that the continuance of the ordinance granting permits to connect water-closets with sewers, however perfect may be their construction, will constitute, and more certainly in the future, even with an increased supply of water-power for flushing the sewers, an abomination and a nuisance, tenfold more dangerous to the health and comfort of the citizens than the present cesspool system. The danger we apprehend does not depend so much on imperfectly constructed drains from water-closets and privies as on the

accumulation of the solid and liquid ejecta of the population in the sewers themselves, and the exposure it is subject to at every ebb-tide, both in the Delaware and Schuylkill, as it escapes from the sewer outfalls.

"On this subject, Mr. Cheeseborough, in his Chicago report, writes: 'The greatest actual innovation upon the original use of sewers is the immediate connection of water-closets with them, and the consequent abandonment of privy vaults. This, however, has not become universal in any large city yet, though very general throughout Great Britain for the upper and middling classes of houses. The experience of the last ten years, however, has led many to doubt the propriety of its adoption in all cases. The character and habits of the population, the facilities for flushing the sewers, and the nature of the outfall, in regard to becoming offensive, should be carefully considered.'

"One of the most serious evils connected with our present plan of sewerage is the ever-accumulating amount of its offensive solid contents. This collection, derived from the fluid and semi-fluid refuse of almost every department of industry that can be located within the range of the sewers, both public and private, together with the washing of the streets and alleys, undergoes putrefactive decomposition, and hence becomes the source of virulent and toxicological emanations which escape into the atmosphere, whether at the terminations of the sewers, or through the numerous inlets or other openings into them which occur along their course. The danger from these poisonous gases in this city has been on more than one remarkable occasion fearfully experienced during the advent of the various epidemics of yellow fever, which have usually made their first appearance in the immediate vicinity of the termini of the sewers on the river front, and from these nuclei scattering death and desolation in every direction."

"Your committee do not hesitate to offer it as their opinion that our city is not advantageously located, topographically, to be improved in a sanitary aspect by encouraging and perfecting a system of connecting water-closets and water privy drains with the public sewers. The great difficulty lies in the fact that two sluggish rivers creep along the eastern and western boundaries of the present densely populous and business portions of it; and the tidal currents, unable to bear away the sedimentary matters beyond the power of the returning waters, this half-dissolved putrescent material, with the foul additions gathered in their laggard course, from the rivers themselves and the adjacent shores, is brought back and conveyed by eddies into the docks and on the neighbouring banks, only to rankle and ferment at the reflux of every tide, when it is exposed, contaminating the surrounding atmosphere with its offensive and pestiferous effluvia, which have ever been a well-recognized cause for the nourishment and spread of epidemic diseases. Besides this natural disadvantage, which is without remedy, we may refer also to the defective construction of our old sewers, as regards their inclination, size, shape, and uniformity of level, together with the present limited supply of water-power for flushing the sewers, in the event of satisfactory evidence being afforded that the flushing system would be fully adequate to the task of cleansing them." D. F. C.

ART XXIX.—*Hand-Book of Skin Diseases for Students and Practitioners.* By THOMAS HILLIER, M. D., London, etc. etc. With Illustrations. 8vo., pp. 353. Philadelphia: Blanchard and Lea, 1865.

THERE is no class of diseases more perplexing to the student of medicine than those of the skin. From the descriptions, even the most graphic, given in books aided by the best executed drawings, it is scarcely possible for him to acquire such a clear conception of the characteristic features and varying aspects of these diseases in their different stages, as will secure their ready recognition in actual practice. This does not arise altogether from the obscurity of the distinctive phenomena of the several skin diseases when carefully noted in the living subject from the first appearance of the eruption, throughout the several changes it undergoes, whether spontaneously or as the result of the action of